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# Maine-Lines: A Newsletter for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Late-Deafened, Summer / Fall 2009

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Maine Division of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Late Deafened

Nancy Melanson

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## THE DIVISION FOR THE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING AND LATE DEAFENED **MAINE-LINES**

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR LATE DEAFENED

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Deaf Culture Tea September 24, 2009 Hall of Flags, State House



Interpreter Tina Morrison & John Shattuck – Welcome remarks

The Deaf Culture Tea took place on September 24, 2009, at the Hall of Flags in the State House. Welcome remarks were given by John Shattuck, Director for the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened, and State Representative David Webster.



Interpreter Mary Jane Grant & Representative David Webster – Welcome remarks

The keynote speaker was Jonathan Connick, Vice-Chair of the Maine Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened. The topic of the speech was "A Time for a New Change - *A NEW WAVE*."

Speech attached.



Jonathan Connick, Keynote Speaker

John Dunleavy, Chair of the Maine Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened, presented the awards to selected individuals in the Deaf community.

This year seven awards were presented in six categories to individuals who have contributed to Deaf Culture in Maine. Recipients are as follows:

#### *Clifton F. Rodgers Award A Lifetime Achievement Award*

This award is named for Clifton F. Rodgers, a resident of Maine all his life. He attended the Maine School for the Deaf and lived in Belfast for over 30 years with his wife Dorothy. Cliff was a member of the Division of Deafness Advisory Council for many years and also worked for the Division of Deafness as a rehabilitation assistant. Quotes that describe him were: "He made an indelible impression on everyone he came in contact with, for his style always created good will and warm feelings;" "His knowledge of Maine and its Deaf Culture were immense;" and "He passed through this world making it a better place."

This award is given to an individual in recognition for their outstanding service in a professional or voluntary capacity to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in the state of Maine by the Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened.

The award is presented to an individual who has worked in or with the Deaf community for many years. It is given in recognition of a "lifetime of achievement."

This year's recipient of the *Clifton F. Rodgers Award* is

### Jan DeVinney



Jan DeVinney, Clifton F. Rodgers Award recipient

Jan DeVinney is well deserving of this award as her devotion and dedication to the Deaf community is never-ending. She worked to make state government accessible for Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in her role as Director for the Division of Deafness (DoD) and currently is working to accomplish the same at Maine Medical Center as a Deaf Services/Access Coordinator. Before joining the DoD, she set up Maine's first community support program for Deaf people with mental illness under Goodwill Industries. This program now serves approximately 30 people in the greater Portland area.

Jan's commitment and perseverance to survivors of abuse years ago at Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was just one of her accomplishments. It took years to get survivors of the abuse the compensation they deserved, and Jan was there as a friend and advocate all the way to the end. Another accomplishment she should be noted for is her involvement in the development of an emergency notification system (ENS) for deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in Maine. The ENS system was the first in the country for people with hearing loss.

Even after being emotionally drained by the devastation of her hearing loss as an adult, she accomplished many things: the assurance of interpreters at Maine Medical Center, Maine's largest hospital in Portland, she became a master carpenter, worked at Bath Iron Works and graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a Master's degree in rehabilitation counseling.

Her compassion for people with hearing loss is genuine and sincere. She's a true friend.

### *Promoting American Sign Language, Deaf Culture and Deaf People Award*

#### University of Southern Maine-American Sign Language Deaf Club (USM-ASL) Deaf Film Festival (DFF)



USM-ASL Deaf Club, Promoting American Sign Language, Deaf Culture & Deaf People Award recipients

The University of Southern Maine-American Sign Language Club was founded during the 2002-2003 academic year. One of its main goals was to host a Deaf Film Festival. The first film festival took place in the spring of 2003 and it has become an annual event at USM's Portland campus. The 2009 Deaf Film Festival was on Saturday, April 4.

The Club also hosts other events, such as Bowling Nights, which students from the Maine Educational Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing are invited to attend. The Club's recent activities focus on community building with the Deaf community as well as celebrating sign language and increasing awareness of Deafness and "Deafhood."

The Club is a part of the Board of Student Organizations, and the majority of its members are USM students, but the Club has many members outside of the University community. The Club's Faculty Advisor is Brenda Schertz.



Brenda Schertz & USM-ASL Deaf Club accepting the Promoting American Sign Language, Deaf Culture & Deaf People Award



### *Outstanding Citizenship Award*

#### **Melinda Smith-Meyers**



Melinda Smith-Meyers, Outstanding Citizenship Award recipient

Melinda is a hard working children's case manager, committed to helping Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals achieve their goals. She is kind and knowledgeable.

Every community has an individual they look up to, admire, and respect. Just mentioning Melinda Smith-Meyers' name, people light up and speak of her with the utmost respect. Her passion and commitment to her family, her work, and the community has made her deserving of this award. Melinda has spent a lifetime advocating for Deaf adults, children, and children of Deaf adults (CODA) within Child Development Services, Department of Health & Human Services, school systems, and Community Counseling Center.

She has sat on several boards and committees such as the Newborn Hearing Screening. She volunteers her time to educate families and the community about American Sign Language, parent/child relations and development and Deaf culture. She is also involved with Deaf events and organizations. Peoples lives have become better and brighter because of her passion and involvement to make this world a better place.



John Dunleavy presenting the Outstanding Citizenship Award to Melinda Smith-Meyers

### *Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award*

#### **Lutheran Social Services-Camp Sign-A-Watha**



Bruce Munro-Ludders & Ken Olson, Lutheran Social Services, Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award recipient

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is one of the largest social services agencies in New England, providing a wide variety of services to children, youth and families; the economically disadvantaged, refugees, and older adults; as well as persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and deafness. Every day LSS provides services and support to more than 4,000 clients, in 55 locations.

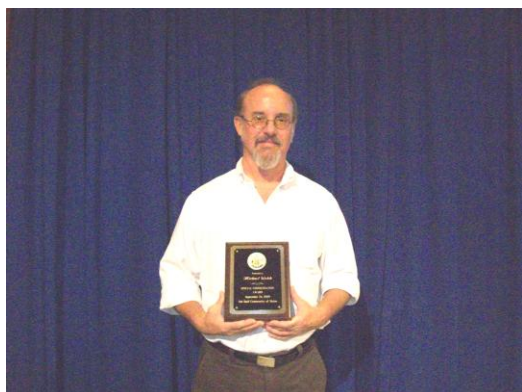
LSS's Deaf Services Program in Maine started in 2004, and over the last 5 years has provided residential supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and deafness, while providing job opportunities to more than 50 staff members who were deaf or hard of hearing. LSS has provided educational interpreting services to children in schools, and continues to advocate for change in how these services are provided throughout the state. In 2008, in response to requests from the Deaf community, LSS took on the responsibility of re-establishing and operating Camp Sign-A-Watha.



Pictured: Left to Right: John Dunleavy, presenting the Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award to Bruce Munro-Ludders & Ken Olson from Lutheran Social Services

### *Special Commendation Award*

#### **Mike Welch**



Michael Welch, Special Commendation Award recipient

This past year the Department of Labor, the Office of Information Technology, and the Department of Health & Human Services undertook the challenge to install videophones for all state employees who are Deaf, state service providers fluent in American Sign Language working with Deaf clients; and the installation of videophones in the 11 career centers around the state. This required extraordinary collaboration. At the center of this collaboration was Mike Welch who was able to provide the technical bridge as well as the practical needs of Maine's Deaf community to have equitable access to communication in the Department of Labor. Now that the videophones are in place, it is our hope that people will utilize these videophones to contact any state agency as well as conduct business to find employment.

Mike provided extraordinary time and effort in this ambitious effort, and we are indebted to him for helping to make the CareerCenters and state offices more accessible for Maine's Deaf community.



John Dunleavy presenting the Special Commendation Award to Michael Welch

### *Special Commendation Award*

#### **Judy Shepard-Kegl**



Judy Shepard-Kegl, Special Commendation Award recipient

Judy works tirelessly to educate others both formally and informally. She volunteers a great deal of her time helping others grow in their respect for Deaf persons, their language and community. In addition, she is a life-long learner who humbly seeks to learn more from the Deaf community.

For over 10 years, Judy Shepard-Kegl, with the support of her husband James and other family members, has worked hard to improve the qualifications of interpreters who work with the Deaf community of Maine. Her efforts go far beyond the classroom; she is always willing to give of her time and talents on a personal level with both new and experienced interpreters. As a life-long learner, she continues to seek out and create opportunities to improve in her own skills as an interpreter and to create opportunities for other interpreters in Maine to also improve their skills.

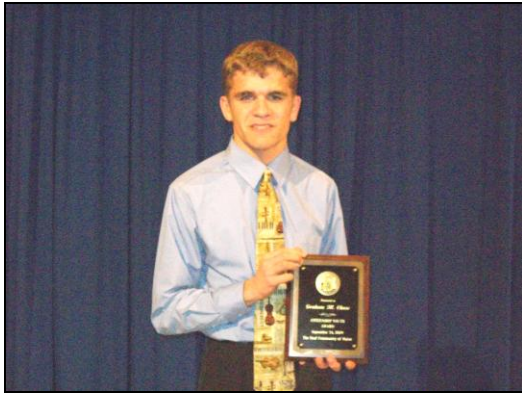
The list of Judy's accomplishments is quite impressive. She received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1985. Her work experiences are broad and varied, and she has written extensively on subjects related to signed languages and neurolinguistics. As an interpreter, she holds numerous certifications including CSC, CI, CT, Ed: K-12, NAD IV, OT:C, SC:L and NIC Master.

Judy has never been one to "rest on her laurels." As an interpreter, she consistently and humbly strives to improve in her skills. As an instructor, she creatively and energetically shares her passion for American Sign Language and linguistics with others. She works hard to improve the educational opportunities for Deaf students in Maine. She is happy to share her time and talents with her colleagues and with the Deaf community in Maine.



## ***Citizenship Youth Award***

### **Graham Chase**



Graham Chase, Citizen Youth Award Recipient

This is the first year for this award, and Graham Chase was nominated by Cindy Tuck, the regional coordinator for Maine Transition Network in the greater Bangor area.

Graham is a senior at Hampden Academy and is hard of hearing. He is a leader in the Youth Leaders' Club and a fine musician who recently wrote a piece of music that his school jazz band performed at a statewide competition. He is a good student, has worked part-time at the University of Maine, and is a very good friend to other youth.

At the *Mission Transition: Unlock Your Future* conference in Bangor, Graham did the introductory remarks for the keynote speaker, Dr. Owen J. Logue, University of Maine's College of Education Associate Dean, who is also hard of hearing.



Group picture of all award recipients

## **Public Video Phones are now in 11 Maine Department of Labor CareerCenters!!**



Ginny Pelletier using the Augusta CareerCenter's new public videophone.

Videophones (VP's) have been installed for public use at the eleven Maine CareerCenters throughout the state. Customers who use American Sign Language (ASL) can now make business calls from the CareerCenters about employment, unemployment insurance, benefits, education, and State services. The goal is to provide equal access to communication for the Deaf. The Maine Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened (DHHL) and the ADA Accessibility Coordinator, Eric Dibner, led this project.

Sorenson Communications installed VP-200's at the following CareerCenters:

Augusta CareerCenter, 21 Enterprise Drive  
Bangor CareerCenter, 45 Oak Street  
Bath CareerCenter, 34 Wing Farm Parkway  
Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way  
Machias CareerCenter, 15 Prescott Drive  
Portland CareerCenter, 185 Lancaster Street  
Presque Isle CareerCenter, 66 Spruce Street  
Rockland CareerCenter, 91 Camden Street  
Skowhegan CareerCenter, 98 North Avenue  
Springvale CareerCenter, 9 Bodwell Court,  
Wilton CareerCenter, 865 US Route 2E

Deaf employees of the State and some signing staff who frequently work with Deaf customers also have VP's. The public VP's will also help people connect with potential employers, schools, colleges, and Social Security. ASL callers can call through Video Relay Service (VRS) and be assured of the best translation.

This phase of Maine's VP project adds to the accessible services already available at CareerCenters. The next phase will be to put VP's in other public places such as the Capitol, airports, and hospitals. The DDHHL hopes the CareerCenter VP sites are well received and the new VP's will help Deaf customers use the many career-related services.

## Camp Sign-A-Watha August 24-28, 2009



Pictured left to right: Kathy Cordes, Romy Spitz & Deb Robidoux with their tie-dyed T-shirts made at camp

Camp Sign-A-Watha took place August 24-28, 2009 at Camp Cobbossee in Monmouth. Campers from all over the state attended, and it was a wonderful success. Staff also attended from various agencies to be with their campers. There were approximately 62 campers and staff combined.



Augustine "Butch" Spasiano at camp

The goal of Camp Sign-A-Watha is to provide Maine's Deaf adults with developmental disabilities with a language and communication enriched experience within a program that focus' on peer support, peer-to-peer learning, and encourages independence.



Friends enjoying a game of beach ball

It was great fun for everyone; smiles were everywhere! What a great feeling! The biggest beach ball in the world gave campers and staff quite a workout keeping the ball up in the air as long as they could. It was a blast.

Tuesday was the day everyone made tie-dye t-shirts; it was the BEST ever! Barney Vega did an excellent job organizing it, and the tie-dyed T-shirts have never been better. Campers and staff alike were delighted with the results.



Hayrides at camp

Hayrides doubled as the camp's transportation system (our version of the Metro) so that campers can go rapidly from one location to another.

The pool was a hit with everyone. Chris B. as usual, terrified the lifeguard with what seemed to be a death-defying belly flop into the water. They had fun watching the poor lifeguard try to "save" Chris, not realizing that Chris swims like a fish and is a champion breath-holder.

The boat ride provided an excellent opportunity for down time to enjoy the beauty of Lake Cobbosseecontee and to find new things to talk about, such as sea-dogs, powerboats towing rafts and loons. The boat rides were great for a camp that focuses on communication!



Boat rides at camp





Enjoying the beautiful weather & water

Thursday night is the traditional “open house” where members of the Deaf community, and various supporters (parents, case managers) come to visit, share in the activities and enjoy a delicious cookout. That evening there is always the traditional CSAW bonfire where people celebrate coming together at Camp, ending the day by sending popsicle stick boats into the water.



Fire pit with totem pole at camp

In 1988, Camp Sign-A-Watha began to combat the linguistic isolation facing Maine’s Deaf adults with developmental disabilities and autism. In fact, Camp Sign-A-Watha is the only such camping experience in the world. For one week of the year, these adults are brought together into an environment that emphasizes learning and growth within a completely visual and accessible communication environment.



Crafts made by campers

For “campers,” this is the one time a year that they have the opportunity to interact, form long-term social bonds, be a peer leader, join activities that are designed by and for Deaf adults, and enjoy the benefits of communication, such as news regarding world events, community news, and yes, even causal gossip.

If you would like to make a donation to Camp Sign-A-Watha for future campers, the contact information is:

Camp Sign-A-Watha  
39 Mechanic Street, Suite 300  
Westbrook, ME 04092  
207-591-6714 (VP)  
207-591-4134 (TTY)  
207-797-3935 (V)



Crafts made by campers & the Communication Board

Camp philosophy:

- ❖ To help each camper develop a realistic and positive attitude about themselves.
- ❖ To help each camper have fun and develop new skills.
- ❖ To help each camper develop an appreciation for nature, conservation, and the out of doors.
- ❖ To help each camper develop and build physical, social, and leisure time skills that represent reasonable expectations for that person.
- ❖ To help each camper achieve growth in independence and self-confidence.
- ❖ To help each camper achieve recognition for his/her achievements.
- ❖ To help provide a respite-care for the family members of each camper, and of the campers themselves.



# American Sign Language (ASL) Health Fair August 21, 2009



Maine Center on Deafness display table

The theme this year was “Protect – Prevent – Prepare” with approximately sixty people in attendance.

The Health Fair was organized through a partnership between the Department of Health & Human Services- Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention-Office of Minority Health, Mobius Inc., Lutheran Social Services and the Maine Center on Deafness. With the help of additional agencies & individuals, this event was a fantastic success.

Some activities that took place were: Question and Answer discussion with a Deaf nurse. She gave a great presentation on cancer awareness. Information was given out on health, nutrition, skin cancer prevention, healthy sex, weight loss and where and how to get free mammograms. There was even some fun exercise with the Wii Fit.



Young attendee using the Wii Fit

Information and discussion took place on how to plan for emergencies and write a living will with a lawyer. A delicious free lunch was served, and there were door prizes and lots of other give-away stuff! This fantastic day was all in American Sign Language.



Lunch at the Health Fair

Some of the vendors/displays represented were:

Maine Emergency Management Agency  
Maine Center on Deafness  
USANA (nutritional supplements)  
Creative Memories  
Happy Healthy Well  
New England Poison Control  
Maine Center for Disease Control - Breast & Cervical  
Health, Oral Health and H1N1 Prevention  
Legal Services for the Elderly  
American Cancer Society  
Mercy Hospital Skin Cancer Prevention  
Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened



Display table at the health fair

If you want any information from the agencies that attended, please contact Meryl Troop at 1-866-347-0275 (VP) or 1-800-639-3884 (V/TTY), [mtroop@mcdmaine.org](mailto:mtroop@mcdmaine.org) or Romy Spitz at 866-241-8684 (TTY), [romy.spitz@maine.gov](mailto:romy.spitz@maine.gov) at the Department of Health & Human Services.

Come join us at the Health Fair next year!

## Deaf Culture Festival “Traditions and Friends”



Welcoming sign for the Deaf Culture Festival

The Deaf Culture Festival took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH)/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD) on Mackworth Island in Falmouth. Despite the rain, the Festival was bustling with lots of people.

There were exhibits, activities for kids, food, fun and socializing with good friends! Some of the new activities were old-fashioned fair contests from long ago: 3-legged race, diaper derby, pie baking competition and an art contest.



Winners of the 3-legged race!

The kids enjoyed a bouncy house, face painting and a craft project, that was FREE, thanks to sponsor MECDHH Foundation for Kids.



Bouncy House & Diaper Derby

The food was FANTASTIC!! Vendors included: Lutheran Social Services-Camp Sign-A-Watha sold hamburgers, hot dogs, and snacks as a fundraiser; Daniel Kaleo's Hawaiian Feast; Pizza Hut (half of the cost supported the Festival); Coffee by Design and Poland Spring Water.

The Talent Show took place at 7 PM in the gym. There were fun stories, lots of action and drama. Cash Prizes were given out to the winners. Thank you for attending and sharing your talent with others.



Goodwill's exhibit & employees

There were vendors from a variety of places: Goodwill, Maine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; Maine Center on Deafness; Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened; Lutheran Social Services; Camp Sign-A-Watha; Sprint Relay; Wilton Free Library, Hands on "PAH"; and Deaf Women of Maine; to name a few. For a complete list of vendors, contact the Maine Center on Deafness.

The Maine Center on Deafness (MCD) table had lots of great information. The Telecommunication Equipment Program, Civil Rights Program, and the Communication and Outreach Program were just some of MCD's highlights at the table.



Hand On PAH exhibit

The Hands On PAH! Program is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Deaf & hard-of-hearing children, adults, and their families, in western Maine. They displayed books about deafness and it was delightful.



## Cue Camp New England (CCNE)



Angel King reading to Emma & Ira

Cued Speech (CS) is a mode of communication that enables the deaf or hard of hearing user to learn language. It can be used in conjunction with American Sign Language if desired because two different languages are involved.

One hand, in one of 8 hand shapes, moves around the lower half of the face, as the speaker talks, with or without voice. The hand shapes, which represent 24 consonant sounds, move to the corner of the mouth, the chin, the throat, at the side of the face, plus 4 placements that move from chin to throat or side to throat. These placements represent 15 vowel sounds most common in spoken English. Language can be clearly transmitted between 2 or more cuers, since every phoneme of the spoken language can be easily distinguished visually.

Cue Camp New England (CCNE) provides a relaxed, fun and supportive opportunity for families who use cued speech with a family member, or who are interested in learning cued speech. Some families have come for several years, and many “graduated” families return year after year. New CS users and those wishing to improve their cueing skills learn about and discuss topics related to CS, and network with cuers from other towns, states and countries.

CCNE has taken place annually for nearly 30 years. This summer was CCNE’s third year on beautiful Mackworth Island at the Maine Educational Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The first evening is spent getting to know one another at an ice cream social.



John, Max & Pat Slater sharing a project completed in language therapy

Because of the strong link that CS has with literacy development, each year a Maine children’s author is invited to read and share their ideas with the children. This year, CCNE’s special guest was Maine author and artist, Mimi Carpenter. Mimi shared her experience in developing her art and children’s stories using bits and pieces of Maine beaches. She displayed her newest children’s book storyboard in progress and other items she uses for inspiration. Mimi stayed with us for the afternoon activities, conducting drawing lessons with the children.

We were very lucky to have such a wonderful Maine artist share her talent and enthusiasm with our children. The adults also enjoyed a special evening at Mimi’s art gallery where she displayed her art and non-traditional watercolor techniques.



Suzanne Flint transliterating Mimi Carpenter’s Presentation

For more information about cued speech or Cue Camp New England, please visit our website, [www.cuedspeechmaine.org](http://www.cuedspeechmaine.org), the National Cued Speech Association website, [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org), or email Nicole Dobson at [info@cuedspeechmaine.org](mailto:info@cuedspeechmaine.org).

# Maine Commission for the Deaf Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened

**The Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened (DDHHLD)** invites you to visit the DDHHLD web site [www.maine.gov/rehab/dod](http://www.maine.gov/rehab/dod) to view the 5-Year Plan that has been created by commission members.

The Commission for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing & Late Deafened meetings are open to the public and take place at the Central Maine Commerce Center, Department of Labor, in Augusta, in the Frances Perkins conference room, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

The next meeting date is January 7, 2010.

## Did You Know?

### ◆ Sign Net is here!

John Dunleavy  
Alpha One  
127 Main Street  
South Portland, ME 04106  
866-760-1752 (V/VP)  
800-906-5375 (TTY)  
767-5997 (FAX)  
E-mail: [info@signnet.org](mailto:info@signnet.org)

Sign Net is a mobile computer training program for Maine's Deaf community. The free computer classes are taught by John Dunleavy in American Sign Language and will take 10-weeks to complete.

The classes are statewide in local CareerCenters. For more information, contact John Dunleavy at Alpha One.



◆ The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) - Governor Baxter School for the Deaf has School Board Member Vacancies for members of the deaf community.

For more information contact:

Joanna Luksha  
781-6284 (V/TTY)  
E-mail: [Joanna.Luksha@MECDHH.org](mailto:Joanna.Luksha@MECDHH.org)

◆ **Video Remote Interpreted (VRI) Workshops at Lewiston & Wilton CareerCenters.** The Department of Labor (DOL) would like to invite American Sign Language (ASL) users to VRI interpreted workshops at the Lewiston and Wilton CareerCenters. This is a program that DOL is sponsoring to encourage ASL users to participate in these beneficial workshops during difficult economic times.

Please notify Nancy Melanson at the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened (see last page of newsletter for contact information) if you're interested in attending and VRI will be arranged.

### *CareerCenter Employment & Training Orientation*

#### **Lewiston CareerCenter**

Tuesdays 9 AM-11 AM

Thursdays 1 PM-3 PM

#### *Job Search*

#### **Lewiston CareerCenter**

Every other Tuesday 10 AM-12 PM

#### *Resume Writing*

#### **Wilton CareerCenter**

Mondays 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

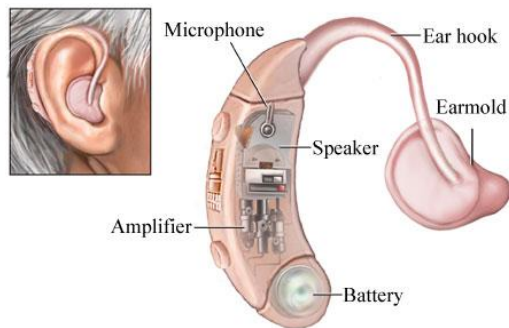


◆ **Contact numbers for the Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing:**

Joe Roquebecil.....1-866-926-3321 (VP)  
Rod MacInnes.....1-866-588-6360 (VP)  
Ginny Pelletier.....1-866-638-1058 (VP)

◆ **ALDA-Maine (Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Maine)** is an all volunteer group for the empowerment of over 100,000 people in Maine and more in neighboring states who are deafened, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss of any kind. New members and visitors to all events are welcome. Come talk with us. Read the new "*Hearing Loss Herald*" publication and join us soon for timely on-line information and discussions, whether you have a hearing loss, are hearing, or interested in equal rights for all people with disabilities. See [www.alda-maine.mysite.com](http://www.alda-maine.mysite.com).

◆ **WANTED, USED HEARING AIDS**



**Do you have a pair of hearing aids in a drawer?**

Want to put them to good use? Mail them to the Warren Center. We will fix them, and pass them along to an individual in need.

Warren Center  
175 Union Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401  
941-2850 (V)  
Web site: [www.warrencenter.org/](http://www.warrencenter.org/)

**If you attended the Maine School for the Deaf or Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD), counseling is available at no cost to you.**

Do you...

...have trouble sleeping?

...have bad dreams?

...still think of bad experiences from the past?

...pass along the hurt to your children, partner, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend or husband?

...find it hard to keep intimate (close) relationships?

**You Can Feel Better. You are not alone.**

**Signing** mental health counselors are listed in the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Resource Guide [www.maine.gov/rehab/DDHHLD/resource\\_guide/clinical.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/rehab/DDHHLD/resource_guide/clinical.shtml) and are trained to help deaf people who were abused. If you prefer **nonsigning** counselors with a qualified interpreter it can be arranged at no cost to you. Insurance or MaineCare will be billed first (if you attended the Maine School for the Deaf or GBSD, no money will be charged to you for co-pay or deductible).

For more information, please contact:

Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Services  
Noel Bonam  
1-866-241-8639 (Toll free TTY)  
287-4272 (V)  
E-mail: [Noel.Bonam@maine.gov](mailto:Noel.Bonam@maine.gov)

Department of Labor-Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened  
John Shattuck  
623-7957 (V)  
1-888-755-0023 (Toll-free TTY)  
1-866-760-8430 (VP)  
E-mail: [John.G.Shattuck@maine.gov](mailto:John.G.Shattuck@maine.gov)

Maine Center on Deafness  
797-7656 (V/TTY)  
1-800-639-3884 (V/TTY)  
1-866-347-0275 (VP)  
E-mail: [info@mcdmaine.org](mailto:info@mcdmaine.org)

**Jonathon Connick Keynote**  
**September 24, 2009**  
**Deaf Culture Tea Awards**  
**A time for “A New Change”**  
**“A NEW WAVE”**

Hello Everyone,

It is with a great pleasure to see all of you here. My name is Jonathan Connick. Thank you John Shattuck for forcing me to be the keynote speaker. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I have had the pleasure of working at the Maine Center on Deafness (MCD), within the Deaf Community, and with everyone involved in this field. I am serving on the Board of Directors at MCD and also a member of the newly named advisory council called the Maine Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened (CDHHLD). I am very honored to be the keynote speaker today in the Celebration of the Deaf Culture Week.

As you all may know, we celebrate Deaf Culture on an annual basis to increase the awareness about the culture. It took me a long time to think about what the topic should be, I have a confession; time flies before you even realize that it's Deaf Culture Week. I finally finished it ON TIME, but I won't tell you when. The topic I thought about for a long time is “The New Wave,” a new change in this ever-changing world around us. I am very passionate about the advocacy and education in the Deaf world. What is the new wave?

**What does it mean?**

This is not about me; it is about everyone who plays an important role, whether it's tiny or a major role. It does make a difference in the progress for greater awareness, services, accessibility and most importantly recognizing that American Sign Language is recognized as a language. This is all about the community. Each one of you belongs to the community. I started thinking about the Deaf history going back to where I started working in the Deaf community by reflecting on all the accomplishments in the last 15 years. I am not here to speak as a history professor but I wanted to have the opportunity to talk about “A New Change,” and a “New Wave.”

**We have been through several waves:**

1. First wave- National Association of the Deaf (NAD) founded-earliest recorded film of American Sign Language (ASL) by George Veditz. Recognition of ASL as a language, the big green monsters (first TTY's made), Deaf clubs and NAD.
2. Second Wave- legal rights and advocacy, interpreting field as a professional career, empowerment, Deaf President Now, telecommunications relay services, videophones and video relay service.
3. Third wave- self-empowerment, what's next? Future cultural impact? Technology?



In Maine, we have had several waves. We have had tremendous failures and successes in Maine, this is a Deaf awareness week, and I encourage everyone to take a look at the timeline. It will show that we have had ups and downs. It creates a healthy balance and yet very fragile fabric of life on a daily basis. The timeline shows what has grown tremendously and how it has changed over the years. I am very pleased that we are being proactive here in Maine by creating a new 5-year plan developed by Maine CDHHL. There were important key players involved in getting the 5-year plan off the ground, but my point is, it took tremendous amount of effort by the “community” to make this a reality.

The first step is renaming the Division of Deafness. It is now called as I mentioned previously, Maine Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened. I call for everyone to get involved in this new venture and create a positive movement for the future. The Deaf clubs, Maine Center on Deafness, University of Southern Maine, ASL CLUB, Alpha One, Deaf Rights Group, Lutheran Social Services, Goodwill, Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, this Commission, and many other organizations provide the leadership through collaboration which is a very powerful social influence in which accomplishes the tasks. Each one of you here have the leadership qualities within you, this is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen. This is all about collaboration and teamwork. We each have a purpose, a sense of why the team exists and are invested in accomplishing its mission and goals. The characteristics are:

- **Change:** is very healthy, it creates new opportunities.
- **Purpose:** Members proudly share a sense of why the team exists and are invested in accomplishing its mission and goals.
- **Norms:** Group norms for working together are set and seen as standards for everyone in the groups.
- **Priorities:** Members know what needs to be done next, by whom, and by when to achieve team goals.
- **Conflict:** Conflict is dealt with respect to being open and is considered important to decision-making and personal/professional growth.
- **Personal traits:** members feel their unique personalities are appreciated and well utilized.
- **Training:** Opportunities for feedback from the community.
- **Success:** Members know clearly when the team has met with success and share in this equally and proudly.

Without inspiration, innovative ideas have no chance of taking flight; in fact, they fail to exist. The time-line is a living proof of the accomplishments here in Maine; it is the result of the Deaf community and everyone else’s passion for collaboration that resulted in successful accomplishments.

Ask yourself this question, “How do I get inspired?” Think of past inspirational moments. What were you doing? Where were you? Was anyone with you? Inspiration can come from almost anywhere, at any time and often from unlikely sources. Let me share something from my personal and professional life, someone remarked to me that I look down to Deaf people and that many do not like me, I was surprised so I looked at myself for the next few days and figure out what my attitude is. I came to realize that we all are different, we all grow up different, and we all have different backgrounds.

Maybe I do look down, but that doesn't mean that I do, it may not mean anything, we all do that one way or another. The point is people perceive everyone in a different way, and that's not a bad thing. Everyone; I think it's time for a new wave and a new way of life, as I explained, we have been through several waves...here in the 90's we had a philosophy as a way for the Deaf community, which is empowerment, and now it's 2009, its self empowerment.

Empower yourselves to succeed in life, seek new ideas, innovations, purposes, and set goals for the future. Okay everyone, please pay attention to me, this is the new wave. We all empower ourselves into developing new goals such as the 5-year plan, the future of MCD, and many other collaborating agencies. I know that each one of you makes a big impact one way or another, but I want everyone involved and to work together. Self-empowerment, I feel is part of the new wave, which will have major future implications on the Deaf Culture and community. Even though we have a new name, Maine Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened, it shows that we all are willing to work together, make the 5-year plan a reality and a huge positive impact on the Deaf Culture. I am not just talking about the 5-year plan, I am talking about that we will always advocate, educate and work with colleagues. The work never ends. As long as we maintain our passion to keep the fire going, we will always have a Deaf Culture, a community that is part of our everyday lives. I firmly believe that by collaborating with all those involved with respect, our Deaf Culture, our Deaf community, whom all of you are part of will be stronger than ever. We will always maintain the positive role model for others to follow. Remember, SELF-EMPOWERMENT, empower yourself to achieve the goals we all are seeking.

Before I end my boring keynote speech, I want to give a special thanks to my parents, George and Joan, my sons, Jonathan, Jr., Josiah and Harry, whom they are my inspiration, and my family, Barbara, Karen and close friends for supporting me in every endeavor. Thank you.

THANK YOU INTERPRETERS!!! THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THE CEREMONY, GO LOOK AT THE TIMELINE AND ENJOY THE TEA AND THE GOODIES OKAY, OKAY, Enough ITS TIME TO CELEBRATE, THE DEAF CULTURE, THAT WE ALL ARE PROUD OF...

## **Employment Opportunity**

### ***Team Leader***

Lutheran Social Services – Deaf Services is seeking a dynamic individual to assist the Program Manager in providing leadership to a team of Direct Support Professionals, who provide services for people with disabilities, to assure that service to consumers is in line with LSS's mission. The goals for these consumers are to live in the least restrictive setting, as independently as possible and to integrate into the community. The Team Leader assists the Program Manager in being responsible for day-to-day management of clinical, staffing and general administrative functions for the team. The selected Team Leader for this position will have the following competencies:

- Ability to monitor consumer accounts, files, medical needs, etc
- Computer literacy
- Interpersonal skills
- Team-work
- Self-directed, ability to work independently
- Articulate agency and individual goals
- Communicates effectively with individuals
- Motivational skills
- Creative problem solver
- Sense of humor
- Fosters independence in staff and consumers
- Balances rights with responsibilities
- Supervisory skills
- Conflict Resolution skills
- Team development and management skills
- Manage multiple tasks, demonstrates flexibility
- Crisis Management
- This is a on-call position for the home and additional on-call responsibilities for LSS Deaf Services overall; must reside within 45 minutes from assigned program

Job Requirements: Fluency in ASL. Two years experience in related field and one year supervisory experience preferred; has HS Diploma or GED. Position requires a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and insurance. Qualified candidates must pass a criminal history check and an acceptable DMV record check.

Interested applicants please contact Bruce Munro-Ludders, Program Manager at:



**Deaf Services of Maine - Lutheran Social Services**  
**39 Mechanic Street, Suite 300**  
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Division of Deafness  
150 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0150

Return Service Requested

**Bureau of Rehabilitation Services**

Jill Duson, Director

**The Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened**

The Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened provides a program of services to Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in Maine, which includes information and referral, advocacy, and accessibility promotion.

John Shattuck, Director

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**RESOURCE GUIDE FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING AVAILABLE ON-LINE!**

*The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*